



**CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA  
ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEETING – FIRE/POLICE  
NOVEMBER 15, 2012**

A meeting of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards of Mesa, Arizona, was held in Conference Room 170 West, 20 E. Main, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, on November 15, 2012 at 11:03 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marty Whalen, Chairman  
Chris Brady, City Manager  
Rick Jaime (Fire)  
Stephen Lentz (Police)  
Ty Perkins (Fire)  
Bryan Raines, Citizen Member  
Floyd Smith (Police)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Vanessa Datson, Sr. Program Asst.  
DeeAnn Mickelsen, Deputy City Clerk

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Scott Farnworth (Applicant)  
Tim Franklin  
Brian Gallagher (Applicant)  
Jackie Hale  
Nitra Hawkins  
Stan Hoover  
Cindy Kelley  
Dr. Adam McCray  
Frank Milstead  
David Niederdeppe  
Kelvin Smith  
Mike Soelberg  
Christy Trevino  
Lee White  
Julie Yu

Chairman Whalen excused Boardmember Jaime from the beginning of the meeting; he arrived at 11:06 a.m.

**1. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of October 18, 2012.**

It was moved by Boardmember Raines, seconded by Boardmember Brady, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of October 18, 2012 be approved.

Carried unanimously.

**2. Presentation on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder given by Dr. Adam McCray (PTSD Specialist) and Stan Hoover (Phoenix Local Board).**

Dr. Adam McCray and Tim Franklin (Law enforcement PTSD specialist) gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attachment) on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Dr. McCray defined psychological trauma and explained signs, symptoms and causes of PTSD.

Mr. Franklin discussed causes of PTSD that are specifically related to Police Officers and Fire Fighters. Mr. Franklin noted that for these professions, traumatic stress is frequently part of the job, but that 70 to 90 percent of those who are exposed to traumatic incidents recover.

In response to questions posed by the Local Board, Dr. McCray stated medical trauma that can cause PTSD, results from experiencing and/or witnessing an event(s) where serious injury or death is actual or threatened, stating that events such as divorce, bankruptcy, and disciplinary action, are not considered traumatic events and are not causes of PTSD.

Dr. McCray outlined the following steps that may help minimize the development of PTSD symptoms:

- Raise awareness of PTSD
- Develop and utilize a peer support network
- Encourage the use of resources, such as the Employee Assistance Program(EAP)
- Provide the opportunity for treatment and recovery before considering medical retirement or making career-impacting decisions

Dr. McCray emphasized the importance of having a competent mental health professional evaluate for PTSD, due to the various tests that can be performed by mental health professionals to accurately diagnose this condition.

Dr. McCray indicated that although PTSD is widely recognized as a psychiatric condition that can render a person unable to work, in most cases disability retirement is not necessary if the individual receives proper treatment. Dr. McCray outlined therapy options used to treat PTSD, emphasizing the significant results these treatments have had in alleviating symptoms:

- Prolonged Exposure Therapy
- Cognitive Processing Therapy
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing
- Psychiatric medications

Chairman Whalen thanked Dr. McCray and Mr. Franklin for the presentation.

Stan Hoover of the Phoenix Local Board gave a presentation on how the Phoenix Local Board processes Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) cases. Mr. Hoover stated that the Phoenix Local Board attempts to identify PTSD, so the individual can receive appropriate assistance before applying for Disability Retirement.

Mr. Hoover outlined the following steps that the Phoenix Local Board uses to minimize the onset of PTSD related symptoms:

- After a traumatic incident, the individual is sent to an EAP provider
- If symptoms of PTSD are present, the individual is transferred from the EAP provider to a PTSD expert
- Individual is put on light or modified duty

In response to questions posed by the Local Board, Mr. Hoover explained that the Phoenix Local Board has not utilized the Temporary Disability option during the treatment period. In doing this, the

City is better able to guide treatment.

Mr. Hoover expressed the importance of keeping complete treatment records from all providers, including case notes. Mr. Hoover added that Phoenix is working with Dr. McCray to identify experts to utilize in these cases.

Chairman Whalen thanked Stan Hoover for the presentation.

### **FIRE PENSION BOARD**

**3. Discuss and consider the DROP application of Fire Engineer Scott Epps.**

It was moved by Boardmember Perkins, seconded by Boardmember Jaime, that the DROP application of Fire Engineer Scott Epps be approved.

Carried unanimously.

**4. Discuss and consider the DROP application of Fire Captain Richard Griner.**

It was moved by Boardmember Perkins, seconded by Boardmember Jaime, that the DROP application of Fire Captain Richard Griner be approved.

Carried unanimously.

**5. Approve the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for Normal Retirement of Fire Fighter Joseph Owensby.**

It was moved by Boardmember Perkins, seconded by Boardmember Jaime, that the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and the Normal Retirement application of Fire Fighter Joseph Owensby be approved.

Carried unanimously.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Fire Pension Board adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

### **POLICE PENSION BOARD**

**6. Approval of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Police Pension Board meeting of October 29, 2012.**

It was moved by Boardmember Raines, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the minutes of the Public Safety Local Police Pension Board meeting of October 29, 2012 be approved.

Carried unanimously.

**7. Certification of full-time Law Enforcement Officers pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 38-842.24, 38-842.27, 38-842.31 and 38-847(D)1.**

Subsequent to a review of all medical reports, Local Boardmembers requested that the record reflect that the following applicants have pre-existing medical conditions: Jonathan Arnett, Daniel Ayala, Bradley Cunningham, Joseph Figueroa, Kristopher Hansford, Benjamin Hoyt, Elsie Keim, Karl Kohler, Brandon Kozeliski, Ryan McNay, Jose Montenegro, Michael O'Brien, Jasin Swy, Eugene Wesley Jr., and Treve Widmer.

It was moved by Boardmember Smith, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that law enforcement officer applicants Jonathan Arnett, Daniel Ayala, Bradley Cunningham, Joseph Figueroa, Kristopher Hansford, Benjamin Hoyt, Elsie Keim, Karl Kohler, Brandon Kozeliski, Ryan McNay, Jose Montenegro, Michael O'Brien, Jasin Swy, Eugene Wesley Jr., and Treve Widmer be certified, subject to the pre-existing medical conditions as noted.

Carried unanimously.

8. Discuss and consider the Normal Retirement application of Police Officer Javier Cota.

It was moved by Boardmember Smith, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that the Normal Retirement application of Police Officer Javier Cota be approved.

Carried unanimously.

9. Approve the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for Normal Retirement of Police Officer Randie Beaird.

It was moved by Boardmember Lentz, seconded by Boardmember Smith, that the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and the Normal Retirement application of Police Officer Randie Beaird be approved.

Carried unanimously.

10. Approve the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and apply for Normal Retirement of Police Sergeant Joseph Turley.

It was moved by Boardmember Lentz, seconded by Boardmember Smith, that the election to terminate participation in the DROP program and the Normal Retirement application of Police Sergeant Joseph Turley be approved.

Carried unanimously.

11. Discuss and consider the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Scott Farnworth.

Chairman Whalen welcomed Police Officer Scott Farnworth. Chairman Whalen advised Officer Farnworth that the members of the Local Board have reviewed his application and medical records. Chairman Whalen outlined the process that would be followed by the Board and encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Farnworth's pending Accidental Disability application.

Chairman Whalen stated that in view of absence of questions from the Board, he would entertain a motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Smith, seconded by Boardmember Lentz, that pending disability applicant Police Officer Scott Farnworth be referred to a local board physician for an independent medical evaluation.

Carried unanimously.

12. Discuss and consider the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Brian Gallagher.

Chairman Whalen welcomed Police Officer Brian Gallagher to the meeting. Chairman Whalen advised Officer Gallagher that the members of the Local Board have reviewed his application and medical records. Chairman Whalen outlined the process that would be followed by the Board and encouraged the members to pose any questions they may have regarding Officer Gallagher's pending Accidental Disability application.

Chairman Whalen advised Officer Gallagher that the Local Board has reviewed the independent medical evaluations of Dr. Michael Seivert and of Dr. Jason Salganick, and noted that Dr. Seivert and Dr. Salganick are in agreement with the findings of Officer Gallagher's attending physician and that, in view of the absence of questions from the Board, he would entertain and motion relative to this case.

It was moved by Boardmember Lentz, seconded by Boardmember Smith, that the Accidental Disability Retirement application of Police Officer Brian Gallagher be approved, based on the fact that he has a physical condition which totally and permanently prevents him from performing a reasonable range of duties within his department, and which was incurred during the performance of his duties.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Whalen thanked Officer Gallagher for his service to the City.

13. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Local Police Pension Board adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Safety Local Fire and Police Pension Boards meeting of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK